

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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APPROVED BY ARA:T.A.TODMAN
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 078074

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX, US

SUBJECT: TODMAN-SOLANA MEETING: MECHANISM FOR HANDLING
US-MEXICO ISSUES

REF: DREYFUSS-HAYNE TELCON APRIL 4

1. FONSEC ROEL CALLED ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN APRIL 1
TO INFORM HIM THAT MEXICAN COMMERCE SECRETARY SOLANA, WHO
WOULD BE VISITING WASHINGTON APRIL 4-5, WAS AUTHORIZED TO
DISCUSS AND AGREE UPON DETAILS TO GET CONSULTATIVE MECH-
ANISM TALKED ABOUT BY PRESIDENTS CARTER AND LOPEZ PORTILLO
UNDER WAY.

2. IN APRIL 5 MEETING SOLANA AND TODMAN AGREED THAT
FIRST MEETING BETWEEN US AND MEXICAN REPRESENTATIVES TO
INITIATE MECHANISM WOULD BE HELD ABOUT MAY 9 OR 10 AT THE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL. DECISION HAS NOT BEEN
MADE AS TO WHETHER SESSION WILL TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON
OR MEXICO CITY, BUT WE ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT MEXICAN
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PREFERENCE. THIS FIRST MEETING WILL BE DESIGNED TO PUT
THE AGENDA ITEMS AGREED TO IN EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE
BETWEEN PRESIDENTS CARTER AND LOPEZ PORTILLO INTO CLEAR
FOCUS, ESTABLISH A NUMBER OF SUB-WORKING GROUPS TO DEAL
WITH CLUSTERS OF THE AGENDA ITEMS, AND ESTABLISH A

WORKING PLAN TO PROCEED WITH THE STUDIES AND DISCUSSIONS.

SOLANA AND TODMAN DISCUSSED THE IDEA OF HAVING WORKING GROUPS PREPARE AND DISCUSS OPTIONS TO HANDLE THE VARIOUS ISSUES AND BRING THOSE OPTIONS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GROUP FOR PREPARATION FOR EVENTUAL DISCUSSION AND DECISION AT THE CABINET AND PRESIDENTIAL LEVELS. TODMAN AND SOLANA AGREED THAT MECHANISM FOR DISCUSSING PROBLEMS AND DEVISING OPTIONS SHOULD BE RELATIVELY INFORMAL AND FLEXIBLE RATHER THAN A FORMAL, RIGID MECHANISM.

2. FYI: DEPARTMENT WILL CONVOKE INTER-AGENCY MEETING IN NEXT FEW DAYS TO DISCUSS IDEAS ON COMPOSITION OF WORKING GROUPS ON US SIDE AND PLAN OF ACTION TO PREPARE FOR MAY MEETING. END FYI.

3. DURING CONVERSATION SOLANA EXPRESSED MEXICO'S SERIOUS ATTITUDE TOWARD QUADRIPARTITE MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN MEXICO APRIL 15 UNDER LEADERSHIP OF SENATOR JAVITS. SOLANA SAID GOM HOPED MEETINGS WOULD GIVE DISTINGUISHED US BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERSTAND REALITIES OF MEXICAN ECONOMIC SITUATION AND WOULD LEAD TO JOINT EFFORT WITH MEXICAN PARTICIPANTS TO STIMULATE INVESTMENT PROJECTS. HE HOPED QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE WOULD SET UP SOME SORT OF PERMANENT "SECRETARIAT" AND MEET PERIODICALLY. IN DISCUSSION OF WHETHER QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE COULD SOMEHOW BE MADE COMPONENT OF BILATERAL MECHANISM DISCUSSED BY PRESIDENTS, IT WAS AGREED THAT THIS WAS NOT REPEAT NOT A VIABLE IDEA, BUT THAT QUADRIPARTITE COMMISSION COULD WORK PARALLEL TO AND PERHAPS HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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SOME INPUT TO APPROPRIATE WORKING GROUPS TO BE SET UP IN BILATERAL MECHANISM.

4. IN DISCUSSION OF GENERAL ECONOMIC AND TRADE MATTERS, SOLANA AGAIN EXPRESSED MEXICO'S HOPE THAT MEANS FOR PROVIDING GREATER ACCESS TO US MARKETS COULD BE DEVISED. HE SAID THAT WHAT MEXICO REALLY NEEDS IS A "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH THE US ON TRADE MATTERS -- "WITHOUT CALLING IT A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP," AND EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT SPECIAL PREFERENCES COULD BE WORKED OUT BY US FOR NEIGHBORS -- CANADA AND MEXICO. HE MENTIONED PARTICULARLY MEXICO'S HOPE FOR CHANGES IN THE GSP LIST THAT WOULD BE OF PRIMARY ADVANTAGE TO MEXICO.
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